

Hotels. Inns. Boarding Houses & Taverns

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The Standish House

(The following article is an excerpt from Duxbury Rural & Historical Society's Duxbury A Guide by Katherine Pillsbury.)

Boston investors formed the Duxbury Shore Company which had 52 acres of Standish Shore property including land that had once belonged to Elder Brewster. The Standish House, Duxbury's first hotel, opened in July of 1871, a month before the railroad line was finished.



The Standish House was an immediate success. Guests from Boston and New York came for weeks, months, and sometimes for the "season." Soon they were enjoying all the amenities of a resort hotel. Inside there was a spacious dining room and a music hall for concerts and dances. In the evening, bands played for dancing in the large open hall. The hotel also had baths with hot and cold running water. Outside, there were lawns for tennis and croquet, sailboats, row boats for fishing, paths for bicycling, and a beach with bath-houses for swimming. The hotel faced a 400-foot long pier, and nearby there was a spring house where visitors might sample the Myles Standish Spring Water.

In the 1880s, the hotel served as headquarters for the yacht club the Standish Shore Assn organized. Where once the bay was full of commercial shipping, now a variety of smaller sailing and racing craft was moored along the coast. The club held regattas and races with members at the tillers of sloops, catboats, and sprit-sails.

The owners of the Standish House added two wings to the central building and later built a "links" golf course. The hotel had a small post office and installed what may have been Duxbury's first telephone.

The Standish House, later named the Myles Standish Hotel, remained popular for the rest of the century. Following a devastating fire in 1908, patronage began declining and the hotel closed four years later. After the center section of the hotel was razed, the north and south sections were remodeled into summer homes. Both still stand along Marshall St., as do several summer cottages once owned by the hotel.